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Subject: Weekend Report from R8
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Weekend Report from R8

North Dakota Delegation Call -- Cynthia reported already on this call regarding VOC emissions from oil and gas in ND in her weekly. It is worth noting that all ND delegation members and Gov Dalrymple were on the letter and the 45 minute call with Cynthia and me, demonstrating their strong interest in the issue. As Cynthia noted, conversations since the call have progressed in a positive way, and I am encouraged at this point that we will be able to find agreement with the State on a coordinated approach moving forward. This week, Deb Thomas will be meeting with the ND Petroleum Council on my behalf, during which these issues will also likely be raised.

Butte, MT Superfund -- (This is the issue that Sen. Tester has discussed with the Administrator recently.) On Jan. 19, the Montana Standard newspaper and a group called Restore the Creek will host a public forum on upper Silver Bow Creek. EPA has been invited and will give a presentation, along with Montana DEQ and the State NRD program and Butte Silver Bow County. ARCO has declined the invitation to attend. R8 will send our two leads for Butte, who will discuss the future remediation and restoration plans for the upper Silver Bow Creek stretch above Blacktail Creek, a message that will reflect the positive collaboration and partnership we have with Governor Bullock. That said, some community members and the Montana Standard will likely be critical and want to focus on past disagreements between EPA and the State. Although there is some risk of negative stories coming out of the meeting, I believe it offers the opportunity for us to talk about the very positive work we are doing with the State at this site. Plus, we are coordinating with the State and County on the forum, so we may have help in responding to difficult questions.

Andrew Johnson (WY) -- Over the past couple of years, I have reported on the dispute we have had with Andrew Johnson who built a dam and fishing pond on his land without a 404 permit. This has been a high-profile issue, with Mr. Johnson seeking the support of his Congressional delegation and Governor, and getting a lot of media coverage. Throughout this process, we have maintained that Mr. Johnson needed to have a permit, while we also sought a negotiated resolution with him to the dispute. On Friday, our efforts paid off: we reached agreement in principle with Mr. Johnson. The terms of the agreement will be kept confidential until the CD is lodged. This is a very good outcome, and great work from my enforcement team and OECA!

Uintah & Ouray Reservation FIP -- Our air program has been requested by OMB to brief them

before Jan. 22 on the draft proposed rulemaking to achieve VOC emission reductions at existing oil and gas sources located in Indian country on the U&O Reservation. We are coordinating closely with Janet and OAR, as well OGC, on the proposed FIP. Last week, we had a consultation with the Tribe on the proposed FIP.

Sent from my iPad